

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09927 030653Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 /120 W
-----065704 031031Z /13
R 020607Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8411

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FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT PASS TO EPA/OIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TBIO, ECEM, JA

SUBJECT: IMPACT IN JAPAN OF EPA ACTION AGAINST
INDUSTRIAL BIOTEST LABORATORY

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS ASSISTANCE OF DEPT. AND EPA IN
PROVIDING RECENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ACTION TAKEN
BY EPA AGAINST INDUSTRIAL BIOTEST LABORATORY BECAUSE
OF DEFICIENCIES FOUND IN THAT LABORATORY'S PESTICIDE
SAFETY TESTING. ONLY OFFICIAL INFO AVAILABLE IS
"ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS" RELEASE OF AUG. 25, 1977. WE
UNDERSTAND FROM AMERICAN PESTICIDE MANUFACTURER WITH
OFFICES IN JAPAN THAT AN INJUNCTION IS IN EFFECT AGAINST
IBTL WHICH PROHIBITS RELEASE OF TEST DATA PREVIOUSLY
ACCUMULATED, AND THERE MAY BE OTHER LITIGATION IN
PROCESS.

2. REASON FOR THIS INQUIRY IS THAT MEMBERS OF JAPANESE
DIET AND OFFICIALS OF GOJ HAVE BECOME AWARE OF IBTL
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ISSUE AND ARE BEGINNING TO MAKE THEIR CONCERNS KNOWN,
ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR PUBLICITY YET TO OUR
KNOWLEDGE. SEVERAL JAPANESE PESTICIDE AND AGRICULTURAL
CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS RELIED ON IBTL TOXICITY DATA FOR
OBTAINING CLEARANCES OF THEIR PRODUCTS FOR USE IN JAPAN.
A NUMBER OF AMERICAN IMPORTERS ALSO ARE AFFECTED FOR
SAME REASON. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT GENERAL SENSITIVITY

OF TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN AT PRESENT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR EMBASSY TO BE ABLE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO INQUIRIES FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS HERE ABOUT SAFETY OF PESTICIDES ALREADY APPROVED FOR USE IN JAPAN OR FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS ARE PENDING IF SUCH APPROVALS DEPEND WHOLLY OR IN PART ON IBTL TEST RESULTS.

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN REVIEW OF PENDING APPLICATION, HAS ASKED FOR COPIES OF INDIVIDUAL AUTOPSY REPORTS PREPARED BY IBTL FOR AN AMERICAN PESTICIDE MANUFACTURER ON ANIMALS SACRIFICED AS PART OF A TEST PROTOCOL. FOUR HUNDRED REPORTS WERE INVOLVED. WE ARE QUITE SURE THAT USG WILL WISH TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH MHW OF TYPE EXPERIENCED PREVIOUSLY IN OBTAINING GOJ APPROVALS FOR CITRUS FUNGICIDES, AND WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN BE HELPFUL IF WE ARE FULLY INFORMED OF EPA ACTION TOWARD IBTL. IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF MHW ATTEMPTING TO USE IBTL ISSUE AS NTB TOWARD AMERICAN IMPORTERS OR MANUFACTURERS; IN FACT, JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS APPEAR TO BE MORE HEAVILY AFFECTED BY THEIR RELIANCE ON IBTL DATA THAN ARE U.S. FIRMS. MANSFIELD

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